REMARKS

The rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kranser is respectfully traversed. As the Examiner knows, a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) requires that all elements of the claim appear in the single cited reference. The only exception is where the undisclosed material is inherently described. Here, however, the Examiner is not referring to inherent disclosure but is in fact erroneously referring to what Kranser refers to as a pressure-sensitive high-tack adhesive (column 3, lines 27 – 28; column 3, lines 52 - 53) as an "additive that increases friction." Pressure-sensitive adhesives or high-tack adhesives have a well established meaning that has nothing to do with increased friction. A pressure-sensitive adhesive sticks to a surface as soon as it is applied; see, e.g., http://www.theofficeguide.com/tape/faq3.html. A high tack adhesive simply refers to an aggressive adhesive that instantly creates a permanent bond on most surfaces, as compared to a low tack adhesive; see, e.g., http://1stopsquare.com/xyronpro.html.

The key feature of the present invention is the additive, which increases the friction, not pressure sensitivity, of the adhesive coatings. The increased friction becomes important during the high temperature lamination process, which itself can be split into three general steps:

Step 1: The adhesive is a solid at the beginning of the lamination process.

Step 2: During lamination at high temperatures, the adhesive melts, the former solid turning into a more or less viscous mass. In this step, the adhesive melt forms a lubricant film between the two layers.

Step 3: Thereafter, the adhesive cools down and interconnects the core with the cover layer.

Thus, the important step with regard to the invention is step 2, where the adhesive melts and the two layers tend to dislocate against each other under heat and pressure. The friction increasing additive reduces this dislocation tendency mechanically. This improves the relative exactness of the layers with regard to each other in the laminated product.

Thus, the friction-increasing additive results in a reduction of the tendency of the thermo-active adhesion to "lubricate" movement and consequent reduction in displacement of the layers against each other. See the specification, paragraph [0011] line 3. At the same time, the friction increasing additive reduces distortion of the prints applied to the core layer. The friction-increasing additive thus results in a more precise and better contoured print or image on the core layer, besides improving the relative exactness of the positioning of the individual layers.

Thus, respectfully, it can be seen that the rejection is fundamentally flawed.

Applicants believe the applcation is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicits a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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